

### Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 9 of page 17 of the specification to include the sentence shown as underlined in the replacement paragraph below:

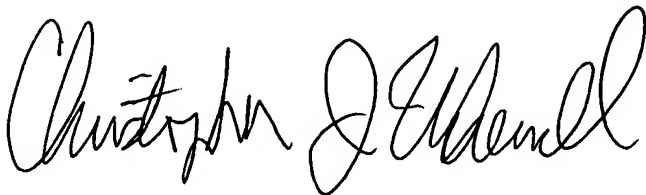
**FIG. 4** depicts a top view of a molar tube **10** according to one form of the invention showing the respective dispositions of various elements of the invention, including the base portion **11**, body portion **15**, boss portion **25** and lumen **17**. The threaded bore portion **33** has an axis **a**, and the lumen **17** has an axis **b**. There is an angle  $\alpha$ , which represents the angle of intersection between the centerlines of the threaded bore portion **33** and the lumen **17**, as viewed from the top of the molar tube **10**. This angle  $\alpha$  may be any angle between about 15 degrees and 175 degrees. More preferably  $\alpha$  is any angle in the range of between about 30 degrees and 150 degrees. It is most preferred that  $\alpha$  is any angle between 60 degrees and 30 degrees, with an angle  $\alpha$  of about 45 degrees being most preferred. There is also shown in **FIG. 4** the mesial-distal length dimension **x** of the base portion **11**. Thus, it can be seen that the axis **b** of the lumen **17** substantially coincides with the mesial-distal length dimension of the base portion **11**. For purposes of this invention and the appended claims “substantially coincides” means that the angle of intersection of the axes **b** and **x** is  $\pm 20$  degrees, on either side of their being parallel to one another, and including the case where they are parallel. According to a preferred form of the invention, this angle of intersection is less than 7 degrees; however any degree between 0 and 20 degrees of intersection of these axes is within the scope of the present invention. In one embodiment, the axis of the threaded bore intersects with the mesial-distal length dimension to form an angle of any degree between 15 degrees and 55 degrees.

No new matter is entered by this amendment to the specification, as this text is taken verbatim from the originally-filed Abstract.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the \$ 65.00 fee due under 37 CFR § 1.20(d) for the terminal disclaimer to deposit account 500818.

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims should now be in condition for allowance. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher J. Whewell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'C'.

Christopher J. Whewell, Reg. 37,469  
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